

across our country continue to feel the effects of the pandemic and government lockdowns.

It will also hurt American competitiveness abroad and force even more businesses and jobs overseas. Increasing taxes on Americans while prices are rising faster than they have in more than a decade isn't just irresponsible; it is dangerous.

The Democrat tax plan will hurt workers and small businesses, diminish our position as a global business leader, and set our economy back for decades to come.

#### VACCINATING TO STOP RISE OF DELTA VARIANT

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the issue of vaccinations, vaccine hesitancy, and the rising rates of the COVID-19 delta variant.

For the last few months, I have traveled across my district administering vaccines to Iowans. It has been a pleasure to see my constituents and the entire country have a renewed sense of freedom and begin to return to normal.

But fully engaged living is threatened by the delta variant, which is causing increased hospitalizations and death, especially among those unvaccinated. Those vaccinated have a much milder course of disease.

It is miraculous to have three safe and effective vaccines for COVID-19 so rapidly. However, this speed of development may give some Americans pause. Therefore, it is critical to emphasize that no safety shortcuts were taken and reassure our constituents that they are safe and effective.

Decades of research informed the development of these breakthrough vaccines, and millions have been vaccinated with tremendously low risk. Given the rise in the delta variant, I would once again encourage everyone to get a vaccine as soon as possible so that we continue our path to normalcy and not go back to lockdowns and mask mandates.

This vaccine is how we get back to normal and get our lives back. If you have questions or concerns, please talk to your doctor.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this time to wish the youngest of 10 in our family, Mari-Eleanor Martino, a happy birthday.

#### CONGRATULATING KATIE NAGEOTTE

(Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, after postponing 1 year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am excited that, on Friday, the Olympic Games in Tokyo will officially begin.

What better way to mark this occasion than by recognizing the incredible accomplishment of Katie Nageotte, who will be one of the many Olympians competing in this year's summer games.

A native of Olmsted Falls, Katie is a graduate of Olmsted Falls High School and Ashland University who will be representing our community and country in this summer's games, competing in the women's pole vault event.

Her victory at the U.S. trials in the women's pole vault event caps a 5-year campaign to reach the Olympic Games, and she joins an elite list of northeast Ohioans to qualify for the games.

I am incredibly proud of Katie for earning this opportunity to represent not only our community but the United States.

Congratulations to Katie and her family. We look forward to watching her make northeast Ohio proud.

#### HONORING MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN MEHRMAND

(Mr. OBERNOLTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Mr. Mohammad Hossein Mehrmand.

Mr. Mehrmand was a lieutenant general in the Imperial Iranian Air Force.

Prior to the revolution in 1979, Iran and the United States were close allies. U.S. fighter jets were based in Iran, and a number of U.S. military personnel were as well. When the revolution occurred, the U.S. Embassy recommended that all Americans immediately evacuate. Mr. Mehrmand was instrumental in negotiating the evacuation of American citizens from Iran, and ultimately, nearly 5,000 Americans were successfully evacuated from the country.

Unfortunately, Mr. Mehrmand paid a very high price for that loyalty. He was accused as a traitor. He lost his property. Ultimately, he was forced to flee to the United States.

Today, Mr. Mehrmand is 92. He lives in my district in California, and he is proud to be a United States citizen.

I join my colleagues in thanking Mr. Mehrmand for his service to the people of the United States and his loyalty to the people with whom he served.

#### REMOVING QUALIFIED IMMUNITY IS MISGUIDED

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was in my mom's home county of Madison County last week to announce the details of my new bill, the Local Law Enforcement Protection Act, H.R. 4500.

I made this announcement standing alongside the respected men and women of our local law enforcement

departments across the region, including our great Madison County sheriff, Todd Hood.

My bill protects those who protect our communities every day by prohibiting States and localities that roll back or eliminate qualified immunity from receiving certain Federal grants.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives to defend our homes, families, and our neighborhoods. They face real danger. In 2020, 264 police officers were killed tragically in the line of duty. As of July 2021, that number already stands at 148.

As the defund the police movement goes mainstream in liberal cities and State capitals, and failed progressive policies like bail reform make our streets less safe, it is more important now than ever to stand with our law enforcement officers.

Police should always be accountable to the communities they serve, but they should never be subjected to unfair attacks or harassment simply for doing their job. Efforts to remove qualified immunity are misguided and ultimately hurt honorable officers who serve with integrity.

That is why I introduced this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

#### REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mrs. RODGERS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Hyde amendment and urge us to be warriors for human dignity and human value.

We must cherish every person's unalienable human right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

With technology today, we can look into the womb and watch the development of a baby day by day. Doctors are able to administer lifesaving care to babies before they are born. It is a miracle to witness, and it is proof that life begins at conception.

Our laws should reflect this science and the truth. For decades, my colleagues across the aisle, including President Joe Biden, agreed. I urge them to join us to protect life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: